

Young Indigenous Meatworkers Gazette

News letter of the Boys from the Bush Projects, Remote Area Work Scheme (RAWS)
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This space is reserved for the logos of those meat processing companies that employ our young workers

THE FIRST SIGNUPS

First group of young people from Alpururulam signing up to the Remote Area Work Scheme (RAWS).

RAWS has kicked off in Alpururulam Aboriginal Community in the Northern Territory, followed by Tennant Creek, Ti-Tree and Titjikala. We have 10 young people who have signed up within the first two weeks.

In addition to these 10 young people, we have received similar numbers of applicants waiting to be assessed. These applicants are scattered throughout the Central Desert and MacDonnell Shire.

I have always maintained that there are hundreds of young blokes out there just wanting an opportunity for a real job in the meat processing industry. The

strength of interest shown by these young people within these first two weeks, support my claim.

#1 Mitchell Mahoney



Mitchell Mahoney aged 21 is the first young person from Alpururulam to join RAWS to work for Cargill Beef in Wagga Wagga.

Mitchell says, "I am looking forward to this job and meeting different people."

#2 Kenneth Philomac



Kenneth Philomac is aged 21 from Alpururulam. Kenneth says, *“I’m also looking forward to this new job. I have never been down south before, and this will be a new experience for me.”*

#3 Mark Webb



Mark Webb is aged 18 and he is from Alpururulam. Mark is the youngest of the three Alpururulam boys signing up for work with Cargill Beef. He is also asking about the Wagga rodeo, and looking forward to playing football (Aussie rules) in Wagga.

#4 Matthew Ward

Matthew Ward aged 19 from Tennant Creek. Mathew missed out on his picture being taken, but he is dead keen to join our scheme and take up the trade of a meat process worker.

#5 Damian Campbell



Damian Campbell is aged 20 from Ti Tree. Damian is a young man of few words. He comes with a good reference and confidence that he can do this.

#6 Lewis Nelson



Lewis Nelson is aged 17 from Ti Tree. Lewis would have to be the quietest young bloke I have ever met. He has never worked before but wants to give this job his best shot.

#7 Jason Boko



Jason Boko is aged 23 from Titjikala. Jason was the first young person in Titjikala to respond to the RAWS pamphlet about 4 months ago. He's really keen about this job and can't wait to get going.

#8 Barry Campbell



Barry Campbell aged 22 from Titjikala. Barry has a partner and a 3 year old child. His partner encouraged Barry to join RAWS as there is no employment for him in Titjikala. He plans to send money home to his family, and try to make a name for himself in the meat processing industry.

#9 Moses Mulda



Moses Mulda is aged 18 from Titjikala. He is also keen to get going. Moses is a very pleasant young bloke who loves his football and basketball and hopes to get sign up with teams in Wagga.

#10 Edward Foster



Edward Foster aged 17 from Titjikala. Edward is very solid, strong young lad with a very pleasant and friendly nature. This is Edward's first real job after leaving school last year.

Old Alyawarr men talking about days gone by.

Pictured below is Nugget Smith (on left) aged 83, and Danny Butcher (on right) aged 70.



Both men were born and raised on Lake Nash Station.

Nugget said he began working when he was about 5 years old; as soon as he could ride a horse. Nugget spoke proudly about working under Charlie Paine, head stockman, a well known figure in this part of the country.

Danny's father was the station butcher. Danny started working fulltime with his father when he was about 12 years old.

Both men tell the story of growing up on Lake Nash Station having originally come from the Harts Range area. *"It was good time, all worked"* said Nugget. *"I worked all around, stockman, droving, fencing, fixing windmill. In those days we paid no money; we be given rations. Our money went to Welfare."*

In 1984 the Aboriginal workers on Lake Nash Station pressed for better conditions, with the result that all the Aboriginal workers were given the sack. The community of over 200 people had to move from the *Old Camp*, to where Alpururulam is presently situated. Nugget said the station manager replaced all the black workers with white workers.

Both men talked about how the young ones don't work these days, and how *"the grog and Centrelink spoil them"*.

But in fairness to the young fellas, it is not of their choice to be born in a place with no employment opportunities; only idleness and boredom.

Strengths and weaknesses of the RAWS recruitment van

The idea behind the Recruitment Van has proved to be spot on. The van is our mobile sleeping quarters, kitchen, storage room, applicant interviewing room and preparation centre.

We are fully self-contained; carrying all our own fuel, food, water, power generator, tools etc.

However, most people have been more than happy to assist us by providing a place for us to park, where we can plug into the community power supply and use their toilet and shower. We are most appreciative of these good people's generosity.



Apart from sustaining a broken caravan axle destroying the tyre in the process, all has gone well.



On our way to Alpururulam, across the Barkley Tableland.



On our way to Titjikala, south of Alice Springs.